

1,064 TO GRADUATE

See Pages 4, 5, 6 & 7 for List of Graduates

CONVOCATION
ISSUE

McGill Daily

CONVOCATION
ISSUE

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Best Wishes from the Principal

My warmest congratulations to each of you, members of the Class of 1955, on the successful completion of the course that has earned for you the diploma that you will receive at Convocation.

For some of you that course has been long; for all of you it has at times seemed hard. I hope, however, that in these moments of Convocation week you will find that all the effort was worth while and, as you look back upon it, not untouched by happiness.

In a few days, you will be returning home or travelling to new fields of adventure. It is improbable that the Class of 1955 will ever reassemble in its entirety, but I hope that each of you will always preserve the memory of this great community of scholars and scientists, and find personal pride in the realization that you are a life member of it.

Good luck in all your endeavours, and God speed.

F. Cyril James.

Convocation Activities

SERVICE, GARDEN PARTY, BALL ARE WEEK'S MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Faculty members will be in attendance for the first time at the non-denominational Baccalaureate Service that will start off Convocation week at 11 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, May 22.

The week, which starts formally with staff and graduating students in academic robes, will end in somewhat the same note at the strictly formal Convocation Ball. Both events are to be held in the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Gymnasium.

The Ball

Cinderellas and their Prince Charmings will dance far past the hour of midnight at the Convocation Ball on Wednesday May 25, at the Currie Gym. The last in the series of convocation activities the Ball will be strictly formal, with dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

PRINCIPAL'S GARDEN PARTY

All graduates and parents are invited to the Principal's Garden Party at 4 pm on Convocation Day.

If the weather is fine it will be held on the lower campus. Otherwise guests will go into Redpath Hall by the front door of the old library from 4 pm on and proceed to Tyndall Hall, where Principal James will receive visitors.

This will be the first time it has been planned to use Redpath Hall for this event.

ing and the McGill Union between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

South America

The Gym will be transformed into South America for the occasion; individual characteristics of the larger South American countries will be displayed through murals and exhibits. Professional entertainment will highlight the evening, but no further information than that has leaked out on the entertainment, as Jim Creighton, Chairman of the Ball, is keeping all plans under cover until the night of the event.

Sandwiches, cakes, and coffee will be served at no extra charge; mixers will be sold throughout the evening, and party favours will be handed out.

Graduates will also be attending a Garden Party on Tuesday evening (Continued on Page 14)

DODDS TO SPEAK AT CONVOCATION

The President of Princeton University, Dr. Harold Dodds, will address the class of '55 at the Convocation exercises on May 25.

Dr. Dodds is one of America's leading educationalists and political scientists. He has been president of Princeton for 22 years and is currently President of the Association of American Universities.

MAY BUILD ICE RINK NEXT TO GYMNASIUM

Construction of McGill's long awaited hockey arena may begin in the immediate future — on the original site beside the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Gymnasium.

City authorities yesterday decided to grant the building permit they have withheld for that site since February. The permit was refused on the grounds that the City was planning to extend Durocher Street across Fletcher's Field and through the proposed site. This plan has apparently been dropped.

"A Sort of Deal"

City Hall sources spoke of "a sort of deal" they wished to conclude with the University, in which McGill would be given permission to build the rink on the Pine Avenue site in return for the University's agreement to having a tunnel built under the campus to connect Carleton Road with Prince Arthur Street. According to The Montreal Star, an Executive member of the City Council noted that should the University decline the "fair exchange of privileges and permissions," the city would be compelled to expropriate a section of the present sports centre in order to widen Pine Avenue.

McGill's View

In a letter to the Director of Services at City Hall, Principal James put forward the University's point of view on the proposed tunnel:

ty's point of view on the proposed tunnel:

"In regard to the proposal for a traffic artery linking Carleton Road and Prince Arthur Street ... the Board of Governors has already expressed to Mr. Desmarais ... its strong and united opposition to the construction of any such road across the surface of the campus.

"If your engineers should evolve a practical plan for the construction of a tunnel that did not in any way interfere with the surface of the University grounds, and did not create conditions of vibration that would interfere with the delicate experiments going on in the radiation laboratories and in the Eaton Electronics Research Laboratory, I am certain that the Board would give such a proposal careful study. I must, however point out that such a practical plan would be difficult to formulate since the tunnel that you suggest would seem to go directly under these two important buildings and might be dangerously close to the Cyclotron which was constructed under ground in order to avoid the danger of radiation.

"... We are as eager as the (Continued on Page 14)

Dr. Dodd's Career

Dr. Dodds received his M. A. from Princeton in 1914 and three years later received his Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. He returned to Princeton in 1927 to teach municipal government and public administration and in 1933 he was appointed to his present position as President of the University. He was the youngest man to hold this post in 175 years.

Dr. Dodds will receive an honorary degree from McGill as will four other distinguished leaders.

The other recipients of honorary degrees are John Bassett, Justice Gerald Fauteux, Miss Gertrude Mudge, and George A. Moore.

John Bassett

John Bassett is President and Managing Director of the Gazette Printing Co. Ltd. and has been Chancellor of Bishop's University for the past five years.

He joined the staff of the Gazette in 1910 and was parliamentary correspondent for 15 years as well as President of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Mr. Justice Fauteux

Justice Gerald Fauteux, a member of the Supreme Court of Canada, is a former Professor and Dean of Law at McGill. He was a judge of the Superior Court of (Continued on Page 14)

Ten Major Posts Filled by Council At Last Meeting

The appointment for 1955-56 of ten students to top positions in Students' Society organizations was approved by the Students' Executive Council at its final meeting of the year on May 4. In addition seven members of the SEC were named as chairmen of SEC Committees.

Don Johnston, B.A. 2, was appointed Producer of the Red and White Revue. He held the position of Director during the past year.

Jaime Dunton, BCL. 2, was named Editor-in-Chief of Old McGill '56. He was Managing Editor (Continued on Page 14)

A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The last editorial of the year, like the first, is a difficult one for any editor of The Daily to write. In the Freshman Issue he is only one among many officials, all of whom say roughly the same thing to the incoming students. In this Convocation Issue we are embarrassed to find ourselves the only spokesman for the graduates of 1955. Both cases, however, present much the same problem: a great deal of what we would like to say has been said many times before.

Next Wednesday over one thousand students will receive degrees as tokens of a course of study successfully completed. Some of them will continue their studies, but most will have to sally forth in search of a job — a truly terrifying prospect.

Will the four years or more they have spent at McGill help them in this quest?

The professional faculties, such as Engineering, Law and Medicine, exist to train students for their jobs. Even a Bachelor of Arts — a degree often despised because of its lack of influence with employers — is of at least negative value in getting a job; it's difficult to get a good job without some sort of college degree.

Most students at any large university today are in professional faculties. This fact, together with the growing insistence of employers that applicants must have some sort of university degree to get a job, has led many to believe that a university exists to train its students for better jobs. Faculties and universities are too often judged by the earning power of their degrees.

Professional faculties can correctly be judged on such a scale; it is not unfair to evaluate them by the way they prepare students for their professions. But to judge the realm of the humanities, or the university as a whole on this basis is a dangerous distortion.

A university, to be worthy of the name, must

do more than just qualify its students for jobs, even in its professional faculties. A university graduate, whether a doctor, a dentist or an engineer, should be an educated man. He should be literate, and he should be able to think clearly and express his thoughts coherently. He should also possess for the rest of his life the interest and the curiosity to continue his education outside of the university.

Whether or not McGill has succeeded in producing such men in this year's graduating class, it is difficult to say now. Certainly many will look back upon their years here and realize that they did not make the most of their opportunities. Some, indeed, now that the list of graduates is posted and one may speak frankly, would admit to having done the minimum of work required. They may have devoted their time to such vital tasks as that of editing The Daily. But this is no real indication of whether or not they have become educated at McGill.

A university serves at the same time as a filter, and those who pass through it must meet a certain standard. It is this that makes a university degree of value to employers — even an Arts degree — for it gives, or should give, an indication of intelligence and ability. This standard falls if the minimum of work required to earn a degree is too small.

McGill's world wide reputation is based upon its constantly high standards over the years, and these standards must be maintained if McGill is to continue to deserve that reputation. If employers complain of McGill, as they have often complained of other universities, that her graduates cannot write English, cannot express themselves, or are otherwise uneducated, the University will have failed one of its most important tasks.

We do not think this has happened. We hope it never will. J. M. F.

PROVINCIAL AID AND SALARY RAISES

Many outstanding professors have left McGill in the last four years, on leave of absence, into retirement, or take positions at other universities. We have been sorry to see them go, for a university is only as good as its staff. It is of vital importance that they continue to be replaced by men of the same high calibre.

This may prove increasingly difficult, mainly because McGill cannot offer salaries as high as those at some other universities in Canada, and an adequate salary is the first necessity to attract and retain good men. To raise salaries, McGill needs more money. This money cannot come from a further raise in student fees, which are already high, but must come from private or government sources.

Last spring the Quebec government announced a grant to McGill, fully compensating for the losses we suffered when not allowed to accept Federal aid. The provincial grants, however, unlike the Federal, cannot be used to increase such recurring expenses as professors' salaries. The money was given for a single year, and the universities have no assurance that it will again be

forthcoming. Such assurance is necessary for a university to make any major increase in running expenses without risking a catastrophic deficit. Obviously a salary raise involves a necessary increase in annual expenditures over a period of years, and a university could not go ahead unless sure of a similar increase in annual revenue.

The Quebec government could give this assurance without raising by very much the amount they give. They could, and we hope they will guarantee each university a fixed annual grant by statute, so that the universities would know with certainty what aid they might expect each year.

At present we can count on nothing beyond the money already given us, and this instability makes it impossible to use the government grants where they are much needed. The money we have received is certainly most welcome, but the way in which it is given is least satisfactory. The Quebec government would do a great service for all the universities in this province in assuring them a fixed annual grant on which they might depend. J. M. F.

UNREASONABLE REGULATIONS

With the completion of the new Redpath Library two years ago, McGill students have had a brighter, more comfortable and more convenient place to work than ever before. Some of the library's administration procedures, however, are still as inconvenient as the old building in which they were born.

Too Few Stack Permits

Access to the stacks, for instance, is limited still to graduate students, and to honours students in their third and fourth years. While no one denies that there must be some restriction, this singling out of honours students for the privilege of stack permits is unrelated to the place of the honours courses in the rest of the University.

This regulation (which is apparently the creation of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and not of the library) seems to be based on two mistakes. It assumes that only honours students have to do any detailed research, and it is impossible to widen the privilege of access to the stacks without creating a flood of students there.

Unrealistic Distinction

It is only in the library that such a distinction exists between the honours student and the general student. Elsewhere in the University the two may take the same courses and do the same work, but the general student is not required to specialize to the same degree, nor must he maintain as high an average. To say that only the honours student has occasion to do detailed research is unrealistic in the extreme.

It is probably true, as librarians assert, that most general students would not be interested in using the stacks. If so, it seems unlikely that the stacks would be reduced to chaos upon the widening of access. Surely the students who are interested and would profit from such access have a right to it.

System too Rigid

The main difficulty with the present system is its rigidity. It (Continued on Page 3)

CONVOCATION BALL

MAY 25th

Eddie Alexander

And His Orchestra, and

Walter Newman

CURRIE GYM

10 P.M. — 3 A.M.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THE

CLASS

OF

1955

"It has been a pleasure to serve you"

CAVANAGH'S PHARMACY

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McGill Daily

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A high school teacher comments that McGill's efforts to attract athletic and academic talent are invariably too little and too late. He also notes that the reception given to groups of visiting high-school students at McGill does not compare favourably with that received at other universities.

Possibly it would be a good idea for McGill to set up a public relations department to correct these and other deficiencies.